or funds met partly by State Government/Users etc. State Government also agreed to examine proposal to fully finance Dehri-on-Sone-Banjhari conversion and thereafter its extension to Bhabanathpur.

Spread of Literacy in Tribal areas

2896. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Adivasi areas in the country particularly in Bihar State are one of the most illiterate areas;

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken to provide education facility in these areas;

(c) the percentage of such population which has been educated so far;

(d) the salient features of the plan to provide maximum education facilities in these areas to bring these people at par with the people of other areas during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) what are the special steps being taken for the education facilities among the girls of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken to strengthen the educational base of Scheduled Tribes include: provision of educational institutes in the areas predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Tribe communities on priority basis, provision of incentives like scholarship, freeship, mid-day meal, uniforms, books and stationery, reservations of seats in educational institutions, relaxation of standard for admission to institutions for higher learning, remedial coaching and provisions of hostel facilities.

Under the adult and non-formal education programmes, emphasis has been given for opening adult and non-formal education centres in tribal areas.

(c) Under the Adult Education Programme, the coverage of adult population among Scheduled Tribes in State of Bihar during the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85) and the first two years (1986-87) of Seventh Plan is given in the Statement I attached (*See* below). Enrolment of Scheduled Tribe children in elementary education is given in the Statement II attached. (*See* below.)

(d) and (e) National Policy on Education 1986 provides the following measures to bring the Scheduled Tribes at par with others:

(i) Priority will be accorded to opening of primary schools, anganwadi, non-formal education centres and adult education centres in tribal areas. Construction of school buildings will be undertaken in these areas under normal funds for education as well as under N.R.E.P. and RIFGP.

(ii) Curricula and instructional material will be developed to suit the needs of tribal children.

(iii) Schemes of scholarships, hostels, Ashram schools, remedial coaching, etc. will be strengthened.

(iv) Educated and promising Scheduled Tribe youths will be encouraged and trained to take up teaching in tribal areas.

(v) Similar facilities and incentives will be provided to girls in all the programmes.

Statement—I

Coverage of Scheduled Tribes in Adult Education programmes during the 6th Five Years Plan period and First Two Years of 7th Plan in the State of Bihar

Year	Enrolment		
	Scheduled Tribes	Total	Percentage to Total
VI PLAN			
1980-81	7253	85445	8.49
1981-82	24881	196893	12.64
1982-83	195032	708443	27.53
1983-84	164458	553535	29.71
1984-85	145675	673217	21.64
VII PLAN			
1985-86	99265	699449	14.19
1986-87 (Provisional)	121115	1371583	8.83

Statement-II

Enrolment of Scheduled Tribes Students at Primary and Middle level (1985-86)

	Enrolment	Enrolment Ratio
Classes I-V		
Boys	4,82,853	116.25
Girls	2,43,703	59.91
TOTAL:	7,26,556	88.37
Classes VI-VIII		
Boys	84,905	33.19
Girls	30,976	12.70
TOTAL:	1,15,881	23.19